



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/686,468

10/11/2000

Nathan A. Torgerson

11738.00001

3373

7590
Scott A Burow
Banner & Witcoff Ltd
10 S Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

08/19/2008

EXAMINER

MENDEZ, MANUEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3763

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/19/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/686,468	Applicant(s) TORGERSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Manuel A. Mendez	Art Unit 3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2004.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-60 is/are pending in the application.

 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-60 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-60 are allowable over the prior art of record. In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, the examiner of record conducted a full review of all the files in this application. Accordingly, after conducting new searches directed to the subject matter disclosed in claims 1-60, the examiner concluded that claims 9-60 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In regards to claims 1-8, the examiner reviewed the arguments presented in the document dated June 12, 2002. The applicant states on page 8, that "DeCant fails to disclose, teach or suggest the ability to change the setting of a valve (as opposed to a restrictor) in response to a control signal received via telemetry from an external source". However, the examiner notes that claim 1 does not disclose any particular language that discloses the capability of passively controlling the flow rate setting of the valve. Therefore, the examiner is reestablishing the rejection of claims 1-8 over Decant, Jr. et al. in view of Reinicke, et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Decant, Jr. et al.** in view of **Reinicke, et al.**

The Decant, Jr. et al. patent discloses an implantable medical pump comprising a fluid reservoir, a passive regulator assembly adjustable to a plurality of flow rate settings for regulating the flow of fluid from the fluid reservoir; electromechanical control means for changing the passive regulator assembly from a first flow rate setting to a second flow rate setting when the electromechanical control means receives an induced voltage and in response to control signals; and means for receiving radio frequency signals operative to maintain the induced voltage in the electromechanical control means in response to a radio frequency signal. The Decant, Jr. et al. patent does not disclose the specific use of radio frequency signals as the means of communication between the programmable unit and the telemetry transceiver. However, the use of telemetry signals at the radio frequency range is conventional as evidenced by the teachings of Idriss, et al. In column 7, line 47, the patent discloses the use of a radio frequency link between the external controller and the implanted telemetry coil in the implantable drug delivery system. Accordingly, for a person of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to enhance the telemetry link disclosed by Decant, Jr. et al. by modifying such link with a radio frequency telemetry link as taught by Idriss et al. in view of the proven conventionality of this particular enhancement.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manuel A. Mendez whose telephone number is 571-272-4962. The examiner can normally be reached on 0730-1800 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Nicholas D. Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Manuel A. Mendez/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3763

Manuel A. Mendez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3763

MM

